

1917-18-19.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 135.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 25TH JULY, 1919.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 6—

Debate resumed on the amendment moved by Mr. Higgs, That the following sub-clause be added to the clause :—

“(4) Notwithstanding anything appearing to the contrary in any Act or regulation or agreement, all books, vouchers and documents in the possession or under the control of the Colonial Combing, Spinning, and Weaving Company Limited, and Whiddon Brothers Limited, and relating to the purchase, manufacture, and/or sale of the sheep skins, wool and wool tops referred to in any agreement made or to be made with the said companies by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, shall be produced to the Auditor-General of the Commonwealth, who shall inspect, audit and examine such books, vouchers and documents; and shall from time to time prepare and sign a report for submission through the Treasurer to both Houses of the Parliament. And the said companies shall facilitate in every way the checking by the said Auditor-General by a continuous audit of all calculations made by the said companies in ascertaining the net earnings of the companies for the purposes of any agreement. It shall be the duty of the Auditor-General to decide what amounts should be credited and debited in order to ascertain the net earnings of the companies, and his decision shall be final and binding on both parties. The Auditor-General may disallow any items and such items shall be omitted from the accounts. The Auditor-General may by writing under his hand appoint any person to exercise such powers and perform such duties of the Auditor-General under this Act as he thinks fit.”

Mr. Tudor moved, as an amendment upon the proposed amendment, That the following words be added to the proposed new sub-clause :—

“The Auditor-General of the Commonwealth or his officers shall inspect, audit, and examine the books, vouchers, and documents of all persons, firms, or companies having contracts with the Central Wool Committee.”

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added to the proposed new sub-clause be so added—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 16.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Fenton	Mr. West
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Yates.
Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mahony	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Page

Noes, 31.

Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Lynch
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Burchell	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Corser	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Spence
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Webster
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wise
Mr. Greene	
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Jowett	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Story
Mr. Leckie	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

25th July, 1919.

Question—That the proposed new sub-clause be added to the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 14.		Noes, 30.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Riley	Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Lynch
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Considine	Mr. West	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Yates.	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Higgs		Mr. Burchell	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sampson
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Page	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith
		Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Gibson	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Glynn	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Jowett	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Lamond	Mr. Story
		Mr. Leckie	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

3. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bruce, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Charlton, Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Corboy, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Heitmann^{*(a)}, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lister, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Nicholls*, Mr. Orchard, Mr. Pigott, Major-General Ryrie^{*(a)}, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Watt.

* On leave.

(a) Absent with Australian Imperial Force.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.